



Stanislaus County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Category	Facilities & Critical Care		
Policy #	553.24		
Title	Burn Triage and Destination		
EMS Director	Signature on file	Effective Date	04/01/2026
Medical Director	Signature on file	Review Date	10/01/2027
Signatures available upon request*		Revision Date	04/01/2028

I. AUTHORITY

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.222, 1798.162, 1798.163
California Code of Regulations Section 100255.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Burn" means any injury caused by exposure to heat, flame, steam, chemical or electricity.
- B. "Burn Center" means a designated facility identified to receive burn patients directly from the field.
- C. "Burn Triage Criteria" means a guideline for assessing the severity of a patient's injuries that is used to direct transport to a designated Burn Center.

III. PURPOSE

- A. To establish guidelines for identifying burn patients and for determining their destination
- B. To ensure appropriate utilization of resources within the Stanislaus County EMS system.

IV. POLICY

This policy will serve to identify patients who are at risk for severe injury and determines the most appropriate destination for transport.

V. PROCEDURE

- A. Burn Triage Criteria
 - 1. A patient (adult or pediatric) whose primary injuries are burns may be transported directly to a Burn Center from the field. These injuries include:
 - a) Partial/full thickness (2nd or 3rd degree) burns involving greater than 15% TBSA without airway compromise
 - b) Partial/full thickness (2nd or 3rd degree) burns of face, hands, feet, perineum or circumferential burn to any body part

- c) Significant electrical injuries with loss of consciousness, voltage in excess of 220v or lightning injury
 - d) Significant inhalation injury
 - e) All full thickness burns (3rd degree)
2. Any patient with an uncontrollable airway MUST be transported to the closest emergency department.